

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): An installation tool for a fastener, the fastener comprising a shaft, a bar at a proximal end of said shaft and extending radially outwardly from said shaft, and a fin extending outwardly from said shaft proximate a rounded distal end of said shaft, said fin and said bar being in alignment with each other along a side of said shaft, said installation tool comprising:

an elongated inserter comprising a tubular carrier portion adapted to retain said fastener and having at a distal end on one side thereof a sharpened distally directed edge defined by an inserter sloping distal end surface, said carrier portion having an open side from which extend end portions of said bar and said fin;

wherein the fin end portion is provided with a sharp edge directed proximally.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An installation tool for a fastener, the fastener comprising a shaft, a bar at a proximal end of said shaft extending radially outwardly from said shaft, and a fin extending outwardly from said shaft proximate a rounded distal end of said shaft, said fin and said bar being in

alignment with each other along a side of said shaft, said installation tool comprising:

an elongated rigid tube;

a carrier portion movable between a first position in said tube and a second position extended from a distal end of said tube, said carrier portion being adapted to retain said fastener and having at a distal end thereof a sharpened edge for penetration of body tissue, said carrier portion having an open side from which extend end portions of said bar and said fin, said fin end portion being provided with an outwardly and proximally directed sharp point for resisting proximal movement of said carrier portion; and

control means for moving said carrier portion in said tube between ~~said~~ the first and second positions;

whereby said installation tool is manipulable to extend said carrier portion and said fastener therein into a the body of tissue, and to withdraw said carrier portion from ~~said~~ the tissue, whereupon said fin resists withdrawal of said fastener, and said fastener remains in ~~said~~ the tissue as said installation tool is withdrawn therefrom.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The installation tool in accordance with claim 25 wherein said carrier portion comprises a chamber having an opening at ~~said~~ the distal end of the carrier portion defined at least in part by ~~said~~ the sharpened edge, ~~said~~

the open carrier side, a closed carrier side opposite from ~~said~~
the open carrier side and adapted to receive a side of said shaft
opposite from ~~said~~ the side of said shaft on which are mounted
said fin and said bar, and a proximal wall for engagement with
~~said~~ a proximal end of said shaft.

Claims 27-38 (canceled).
